

at the Illinois State Swimming and Diving Championships this February.

Elizabeth Lukes graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 2001 with a degree in Art Education. Besides coaching, she teaches art in the Downers Grove Elementary School, District 58.

Elizabeth lives in Warrenville with her husband, Ken; and daughter, Maggie. I am proud to honor Elizabeth Lukes for this great award and recognition, and I congratulate her again for an outstanding job at the school.

MEMORIAL DAY

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, this Monday, Memorial Day, gives citizens from around the country the opportunity to pause, come together, and remember those who have laid down their lives in protection of freedom. The debt we owe our Nation's members of the armed services, our veterans and their families can never be fully repaid.

Today we continue to be engaged in hostilities in Iraq and Afghanistan, and young men and women will continue to pay the ultimate price for this Nation.

As a 24-year veteran of the Army National Guard, I'm proud of the work we have done together in this Congress to support our veterans and military families. Although we have come a long way concerning care for our veterans, there's always more work to be done. We must ensure that our veterans do not fall through the cracks as they transition from the military to civilian life.

Back in Minnesota, as the 34th Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard prepare to deploy again to the Middle East, it's more critical than ever we back up those words with actions. We do so because it's the right thing to do for our veterans and the moral health of this Nation.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, we thank our current servicemembers, veterans, and their families for their service.

THE WARRIOR

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is the day we remember Americans that served and did not return. Their blood has stained and sanctified the soil of every continent on Earth. They are buried in unmarked graves in far-off fields, mountains, deserts, and oceans. They brought freedom to peoples they did not know in lands they had never been.

The warrior, not the preacher, has given us freedom of religion.

The warrior, not the reporter, has given us freedom of press.

The warrior, not the lawyer, has given us the right to a fair trial.

The warrior, not the politician, has given us the right to vote.

The warrior, not the critic, has given us freedom of speech.

The warrior, not the movie personality, has given us freedom to assemble.

And the warrior, not the college professor, has given us liberty.

It is the warrior that gave his youth so we could have a future. It is the warrior who salutes the flag and serves the flag. And it's the warrior that is buried under the flag that we honor this Memorial Day, 2010.

And that's just the way it is.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION AGENCY

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the 2008 economic meltdown had some roots in consumer finance. Financial lenders steered families into mortgages they could not afford to repay, steered them into subprime loans, then packaged those loans and sold them to investors in the securities market. Credit card companies used unfair and deceptive practices to exacerbate nearly \$1 trillion in nationwide credit card debt.

So it is important that we have a strong, independent Consumer Financial Protection Agency, such as we passed in the House last year. Putting this under or in another agency won't really protect the consumers.

The new CFPA must have the independence both to write and enforce regulations that will truly protect American families from abuses. This is our chance to reform Wall Street and stand up for ordinary Americans. And this is our chance to get it right.

I urge House leaders to insist on the stronger, more independent House-passed version of the Consumer Financial Protection Agency. Our constituents deserve no less.

THOROUGH STUDY ON YUCCA MOUNTAIN WASTE REPOSITORY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee for including an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act to require a detailed report on the ramifications of closing the Yucca Mountain Waste Repository.

Before the administration irresponsibly walks away from a \$10 billion investment and a 23-year bipartisan agreement, we need to provide America's taxpayers and decisionmakers with adequate information.

To lessen our dependence on foreign oil, we must remain committed to investing in developing technologies. Nu-

clear energy is a clean, safe, and cost-effective energy source that has provided over half of the electricity generated in South Carolina for over 30 years. But in order to keep it safe, we must have a permanent site for disposal.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the global war on terrorism during Memorial Day activities.

CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, it seems, at times, that Washington has forgotten that Americans don't need millions of dollars to create jobs. They can do plenty if the government just gives them a chance to succeed.

In my district, we are set to create new opportunities in the tourism industry with Federal action, not Federal dollars. Millions of people already visit greater Arizona to see our natural wonders, with a tremendous economic impact. We can grow our economy by preserving these sites for future generations.

I am getting the ball rolling with legislation to designate the Sedona Red Rocks as a national scenic area and to expand the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. These bills will protect these magnificent attractions, bringing new visitors to Arizona, and help us get folks to work with almost no cost.

The Natural Resources Committee has scheduled a hearing on these measures. I appreciate their willingness to help us make progress. Congress needs to pass these job-creating provisions as soon as possible.

□ 0915

PASS A BUDGET

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Democrats are refusing to do one of the most basic jobs that the American people have sent their Representatives to Washington to do: Make a budget. We are in the midst of a spending crisis. Seven months into this fiscal year, and the Federal Government has already spent \$800 billion that it doesn't have, and that number is skyrocketing. House Democrats are ready to add another \$134 billion to the deficit this week.

So how do we fix this problem? How do we stop taxing and borrowing and spending without restraint? One of the most obvious ways is by having a budget. That's our job, to pass a budget that makes hard choices and sets priorities and brings government spending under control.